



DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

DB11:071

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 30, 2011

CONTACT: Nicole Winger

(916) 653-6575

Budget-Related Initiative Enters Circulation

***State Budget. State and Local Government.
Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute.***

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Debra Bowen today announced that the proponents of a new initiative may begin collecting petition signatures for their measure.

The Attorney General prepares the legal title and summary that is required to appear on initiative petitions. When the official language is complete, the Attorney General forwards it to the proponents and to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State then provides calendar deadlines to the proponents and to county elections officials, and the initiative may be circulated for signatures. The Attorney General's official title and summary for the measure is as follows:

STATE BUDGET. STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND STATUTE. Establishes two-year state budget cycle. Prohibits Legislature from creating expenditures of more than \$25 million unless offsetting revenues or spending cuts are identified. Permits Governor to cut budget unilaterally during declared fiscal emergencies if Legislature fails to act. Requires performance reviews of all state programs. Requires performance goals in state and local budgets. Requires publication of all bills at least three days prior to legislative vote. Gives counties power to alter state statutes or regulations related to spending unless Legislature or state agency vetoes changes within 60 days. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: **Decreased state revenues and commensurate increased local revenues, probably in the range of about \$200 million annually, beginning in 2013-14. Potential decreased state program costs or increased state revenues resulting from changes in the fiscal authority of the Legislature and Governor. Increased state and local costs of tens of millions of dollars annually to implement new budgeting practices. Over time, these costs would moderate and potentially be offset by savings from improved program efficiencies.** (11-0068)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1537 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 11-0068.

The proponents for this measure, Bruce McPherson and Sunne Wright McPeak, must collect signatures of 807,615 registered voters – the number equal to eight percent of the total votes cast for governor in the 2010 gubernatorial election – in order to qualify it for the ballot. The proponents have 150 days to circulate petitions for this measure, meaning the signatures must be collected by May 29, 2012. The initiative proponents can be reached at (510) 346-6200.

###